



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2797**

**Joseph E. Kernan
GOVERNOR**

October 7, 2003

TO ALL COUNTY AUDITORS:

I am requesting all county auditors extend the deadline for property taxpayers to apply for all deductions and credits for the 2003-pay-2004 year to December 1, 2003. This is a deadline extension on existing deductions and credits that include the mortgage, Homestead, veteran's, blind, and senior's deductions and Homestead credits. Please see the enclosed Quick Reference Chart of Property Tax Deductions for 2003-pay-2004.

By extending the deadline from May 10 to December 1, 2003, taxpayers will have an additional opportunity to apply for the deductions and credits that help reduce their tax bills. Extending these deadlines does not affect counties' current budgets and tax rates, and will have a nominal fiscal impact. Homeowners must have had the deed to their homes recorded by March 1, 2003, to receive the Homestead deduction and credit.

Because the May 10, 2003 deadline is statutory, the Department of Local Government Finance and I will ask the General Assembly to consider permitting the 2003-pay-2004 deadline extension. We appreciate your willingness to help taxpayers during this year's reassessment. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Beth Henkel, Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance, at 317-232-3775.

Thank you for your cooperation while we work through these difficult issues facing our communities.

Sincerely,

Joseph E. Kernan